Senior Foremen Stagnating in Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur.

1405. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTA-CHARJEE: Will the PRIME M1NISIER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Senior Foremen belonging to leather wing of the Ordance Equipment Factory, Kanpur have been stagnating in one post for want of vacancies of Assistant Works Manager (Leather) for the last five yeais or more;

(b) whether representations have been made to DGOF for resolving the issue;

(c) whether no action has so far been taken to upgrade these Foremen;

__(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) what further action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LAUT VIJAY SINGH): (a) There are some Foremen (Leather) who have completed more than five years of service in the grade who have not yet been promoted more than five years of service in the grade who have not yet been promoted as Assistant Works Manager (Leather).

(b) to (e) While no specific representations have been received from Foremen (Lether), per se, representations have been received on behalf of the cadre of Foremen in general covering various disciplines. DGOF has been advised to frame a suitable proposal in this matter for consideration of the Government.

Release of Sri Lankan Smugglers,

1406. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Press statement of the New Chief of Navy published in the Hindu dated the 16th November, 1990 and the clarification issued by the Ministry of External Affairs published fa the Hindu dated the 17th November, 1990;

(b) whether Government have enquired about the allegations made by the Chief of Navy against the State Government of Tamil Nadu for receiving the Sri Lankan smugglers handed over by the Indian Navy to the State Policy; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and published in the Hindu of 17th November, 1990 was not concerning the reported statement made by the then Chief of Naval Staff designate (now CNS) at a Press Conference in Madras.

(b) and (c) The Indian Navy and the Coast Guard have been patrolling the Palk Bay/Palk Strait area intensively for the past several months in order to check the infiltration of militants from Srilanka as well as to curb other illegal activities in the area, including smuggling. Those apprehended by the Navy/Coast Guard are handed over to the concerned authorities for action in accordance with the law. Any decision to remand/release the apprehended persons rests with the concerned prosecuting authorities'Courts of law.

Danger of Cancer from Radiation

1407. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that new dangers are coming to light due to low-dose exposure to cancer radiation;

(b) whether Government are aware of a recent report of an Independent Analysis by world renowned Dr. John W. Gof-man of Committee for Nuclear Responsibility. San Francisco, California, USA on the subject;

(c) whether Government propose to set up an independent scientific task force with concerned citizens to look into the question of use of nuclear energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of recent scientific investigations indicating possible link between the low-dose exposure and radiation-induced cancer. However, some of these findings have also been questioned on scientific grounds. The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) is examining these reports and we are awaiting the recommendation of ICRP.

(b) No, Sir. The Government has not so far studied the full report of Dr. John W. Gofman. However, Government is aware of the summarised contents of the report as published in the news media. Basically, the report questions the vali dity of the revised cancer risk estimates from the atomic bomb survivor data in Japan. The revised estimates were based on the facts that the predictions of Dr. J. W. Gofman in 1974 did not match with, the cancer deaths actually observed in this population since 1974.

(c) and (d) Based on the above mention ed reports the Government does not see any compelling reason at this stage to look into the question of the use of nu clear energy in our country. The Depart ment of Atomic ' ' Energy continuously examines and reviews through Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and other com mittees and task forces the health and safety aspects of nuclear energy at all stages Of nuclear fuel cycle. It may be pointed out that non-DAE exports are always associated with all committees Task Forces. From the health and safety point of view there is no new development at this stage nor any new data which calls for a denovo examination of the uti lization of nuclear energy.

JJevelopmenf of New Catalyst for-Converting Gas into Kerosene

1408. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appeared in Times of India dated the 29th November, 1990 wherein it has been started that a new Catalyst to turn gas into Kerosene has now developed by National Chemical Laboratory, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this has been put to pilof -plant and field trials; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA). (a) Yes, Sir. As reported in the New Delhi edition of Times of India dated 29. 10. 1990, National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) has developed catalysts involved in conversion of methanol to middle distillates *viz* kerosene and diesel,

(b) Based on the NCL developments the Centre for High Technology, Govern— ment of India has approved to support a project to set up a one tonne per day pilot plant at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Bombay to ascertain the commercial viability. The design of the pilot plant has been completed paving the way for setting up of the pilot plant.

Eugagement of Contract Workers at Paradeep Pont

1409. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aboujt 816 contract workers are allowed to be engaged for 16. hours daily by clearing and forwarding agents at Paradeep Port for loading/unloading of coal wagons inviola-tion of labour laws when some workers of the Paradeep Port are without work for many years; and

(b) if so, what are the remedial steps proposed to be taken for adherence of labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): - (a) and (b) The information is being collected.